

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

The Board of the Washington Fire Commissioners Association held a regular meeting on Saturday, January 24, 2009, at the state association office in Olympia.

Members present: President Bill Gates, Vice President Robert Skaggs, Region 1 Director Sharon Colby, Region 3 Alternate Dwight VanderVorste, Region 5 Director Steve Lich, Region 6 Director Jim Farrell, Region 7 Alternate Verne Pierson, Region 8 Director Keith Merritt, Region 9 Director Mick McKinley and Immediate Past President Joe Dawson.

Also present: Gene Carmody (Port Ludlow Fire & Rescue), Jack Hensley (Spokane 4), Mike Matlick (Director of Fire Protection), Ryan Spiller (Capitol Connection), Roger Ferris, Sandy Babcock, Jim Lux and Nora Eyllenfeldt (WFCA).

President Gates called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Board members and guests proceeded with introductions.

Robert Skaggs moved and it was seconded to approve the agenda as presented. **Motion carried.**

Mick McKinley moved and it was seconded to approve the December 6, 2008 Board meeting minutes as presented. **Motion carried.**

In Les Riel's absence, Roger Ferris presented the Secretary-Treasurer's report stating the association ended the year under budget. Mr. Ferris reported districts are paying their 2009 renewals and at the present time he has not received any concerns or comments regarding the dues increase.

Roger Ferris presented the James R. Larson Forum Building report stating regular operating received a \$30,000 capital return at the end of 2008.

Steve Lich moved and it was seconded to approve December 2008 disbursements, check numbers 22253 through 22309, in the amount of \$58,110.27. **Motion carried.**

President Gates accepted the Secretary-Treasurer and Forum reports.

Mike Matlick addressed the Board regarding activities of the Fire Marshal's Office. He passed out information on certification asking for input. Roger Ferris agreed to give Mr. Matlick time at an interim Legislative Committee meeting to discuss decentralized training.

Jack Hensley reported the Health Care Committee met yesterday and makes the following recommendations to the Board:

1) Increase from \$5,000 to \$10,000 the annual administrative contract under which the WFCA staff provide services for the committee and health care program. Keith Merritt moved and it was seconded to approve the 2009 administrative contract in the amount of \$10,000 (\$4,000 each for Sandy Babcock and Nora Eyllenfeldt and \$2000 for Amber Brown). **Motion carried.**

2) Appoint Jim Lux and Sandy Babcock as Privacy Officers (it was noted Roger Ferris already serves as Privacy Officer). Robert Skaggs moved and it was seconded to appoint Jim Lux and Sandy Babcock as additional Privacy Officers for the WFCAs health care program. **Motion carried.**

Jim Lux gave the Health Care Managers report stating he has met with Trusteed Plans and Mercer representatives and has reviewed minutes, finances and other relevant health care documents. He has received assignments from the Health Care Committee and will be meeting with fire districts in the near future to discuss the program.

Roger Ferris presented the Health Care Investment Officers report stating the loss ratio for 2008 stands at 101% (deposits and withdrawals) and 105% with the addition of other program expenses. He will be working with Jim Lux and the State Risk Manager to formulate a recommendation for the health care contingency reserve policy.

President Gates accepted the health care reports.

Roger Ferris reported he is in early discussions with a fire district that wants to create a new entity and continue in the WFCAs health care program. President Gates accepted the Executive Secretarys report.

Bob Skaggs stated the Executive Committee met with the Washington Fire Chiefs Executive Board yesterday; it was a positive meeting during which 2009 priorities were shared. This group plans to meet at least twice per year. President Gates accepted the Executive Committee report.

Ryan Spiller gave the legislative report outlining major issues for the 2009 session (annexation, bid limit increases, capital funding for rural districts). Discussion was held regarding the impact fee bill; it was the consensus of the Board to send a letter of appreciation to John Sitkin of Chmelik Sitkin and Davis for his legal work on behalf of this bill. President Gates accepted the legislative report.

The Board recessed at 2:30 p.m. The Board reconvened at 2:40 p.m.

President Gates announced that Dean Shelton, WFCAs representative on the Fire Protection Policy Board, provided the Board with a written report. President Gates accepted the report.

The Ad Hoc Committee presented its final draft report to the Board which contained committee descriptions to better clarify the role and responsibilities of each committee. It was noted that this information was forwarded to all committees for input. Jim Farrell referred to the highlighted areas in the document concerning the Health Care Committee, noting these are simple housekeeping measures. Bob Skaggs moved and it was seconded to approve the committee descriptions with the changes highlighted and the organizational flow chart. **Motion carried.**

The Board discussed amendments to Resolution 12-80(b). Jim Farrell expressed concerns with the proposed language that would require a committee members district to participate in the health care program. Discussion followed. Sharon Colby moved and it was seconded to

adopt the proposed amendments to Resolution 12-80(b). **Motion carried.** Roger Ferris and Joe Dawson thanked the Ad Hoc Committee for its extensive work on behalf of the association.

Keith Merritt reported on Fire Service Leadership Forum activity providing minutes from the last meeting. The Forum is planning to meet with the newly elected Commissioner of Public Lands. President Gates accepted the Leadership Forum report.

Bob Skaggs reported on the Residential Sprinkler Coalition stating he recently had a telephone meeting with Greg Rogers. Commissioner Skaggs noted that mandating residential sprinklers is going to be an uphill battle.

Discussion was held regarding proposed changes by the Department of Health, one of which requires a minimum of three people to man an ambulance. Roger Ferris responded this issue has surfaced before and he will look into it.

Steve Lich provided an update on E911 Advisory Committee activities stating there is a push to change the 911 tax to a 911 fee. President Gates accepted the E911 Committee report.

President Gates referred to a written document outlining his committee appointments.

Roger Ferris stated he discussed Budget Committee appointments with Secretary-Treasurer Les Riel who has made the following recommendations: Dave Fergus, Kay Smith, Don Foster and Bill Anderson. Verne Pierson moved and it was seconded to approve Commissioner Riel's recommendations for the Budget Committee. **Motion carried.**

Regional directors reported on activities within their respective regions. President Gates accepted the reports.

President Gates announced the next Board meeting will be held in Yakima on Saturday, April 25, beginning at 10 a.m. The Health Care Committee will meet on April 24 at 2 p.m. and there will be an informal function hosted by the Yakima Convention Center that evening at 6 p.m.

Roger Ferris thanked the Board for its service and stated he looks forward to a great 2009.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 p.m.